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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 26, 1961

SUBJECT: Lee Oswald

PARTICIPANTS: Mrs. Oswald
PPT - Mr. Edward J. Hickey
SCS - Mr. Denman F. Stanfield
SOV - D. E. Boster

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Mrs. Oswald came in to discuss the situation with regard to her son, Lee Oswald, who had gone to the Soviet Union and attempted to renounce his citizenship in a visit to the Embassy on October 31, 1959. Mrs. Oswald said she had come to Washington to see what further could be done to help her son, indicating that she did not feel that the Department had done as much as it should in his case. She also said she thought there was some possibility that her son had in fact gone to the Soviet Union as a US secret agent, and if this were true she wished the appropriate authorities to know that she was destitute and should receive some compensation.

Mrs. Oswald was assured that there was no evidence to suggest that her son had gone to the Soviet Union as an "agent", and that she should dismiss any such idea. With respect to her son's citizenship status, Mr. Hickey explained that he had not yet taken the necessary steps in order legally to renounce his citizenship. At the same time, we did not know whether he had taken any action which would deprive him of his American citizenship under our laws. Mrs. Oswald conceded that there was a good possibility that her son was acting in full knowledge of what he was doing and preferred the Soviet way of life. If this were the case, she would respect his right to do so.

It was agreed that the Department would send a new instruction to the Embassy at Moscow asking that the Soviet Foreign Ministry be informed that Mrs. Oswald had not heard from her son in several months and was very anxious to have word from him.

Mrs. Oswald said that her address at the present time was Box 305, Boyd, Texas.

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